

REMARKS

This Amendment is made to the final Office Action dated May 22, 2006 and the Advisory Action of October 19, 2006. Claims 1-48 are pending in this application. Of these claims, claims 6, 9-14, 21-28, 30 and 36-48 have been withdrawn in view of a previous restriction and election of species requirement. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 29 have been amended to more clearly define the presently claimed invention. Applicants have carefully reviewed the arguments presented in the Office Action and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks presented below.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1- 5, 7, 29, 31 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,581,019 to Curelaru (the "Curelaru patent"). Again, Applicants strongly disagree with the Examiner's position that the Curelaru patent discloses a resealable longitudinal joint. However, in order to expedite the prosecution of this case, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 29 by adding structural elements to more clearly define the resealable longitudinal joint. These structural elements are clearly lacking in the Curelaru patent. Applicants hereby reserve the right to prosecute original claims 1 and 29, along with variations thereof, in continuation applications which may be filed in the future. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the Curelaru patent as an anticipatory reference.

Claims 8 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Curelaru patent in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,868,704 to Campbell et al. (the "Campbell patent"). These dependent claims depend from independent claims 1 and 29. For at least the reason addressed above with respect to claims 1 and 29, the Curelaru patent fails to disclose the basic structure recited in the claims. The Campbell patent also fails to disclose a resealable joint as recited in the pending claims. Allowance of these dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that independent claims 1 and 29 are generic and allowable over the cited art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider previously withdrawn claims 6 and 9-14 which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, along with dependent claim 30 which depends from claim 29.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that all of the present claims of the application are patentable and in a condition for allowance. The undersigned attorney can be reached at (310) 824-5555 to facilitate prosecution of this application, if necessary.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.


REQUEST FOR ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME

Applicants respectfully request a one-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action dated May 22, 2006 and the Advisory Action dated October 19, 2006. The requisite fee of \$120 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is enclosed herewith. Please charge any additional fee or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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